



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Date: August 24, 2004

Gary D. Rondeau and John H. Zemek

Our Docket: ASC 301

Serial No. : 10/823,349

Group Art Unit: 2872

Filed : 04/12/2004

For : STAGE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR OPTICAL
MICROSCOPE INCLUDING Z-AXIS STAGE AND
PIEZOELECTRIC ACTUATOR FOR RECTILINEAR
TRANSLATION OF Z STAGE

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98

Applicants are submitting this Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the patents, publications, applications, and/or other references listed on the enclosed, completed PTO-1449 form(s). The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the listed references are prior art for this application. Applicants respectfully request that the listed references be expressly considered during prosecution of the application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "references cited" on any patents issuing therefrom.

CONTENT OF DISCLOSURE

This Information Disclosure Statement includes (1) 2 pages of PTO-1449 forms, and (2) a legible copy of each foreign and non-patent reference, if any, listed on the form(s). However, because this application was filed on or after July 1, 2003, no copies of U.S. patents or published U.S. patent applications are included.

TIMING OF DISCLOSURE / FEE INFORMATION

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, either (1) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits, or (2) before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee or statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is required.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions or comments regarding this Information Disclosure Statement.

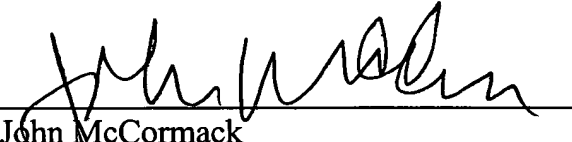
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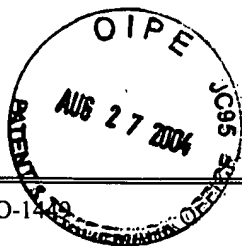
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 24, 2004.


Heidi Dutro

Respectfully submitted,

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SHEET 1 OF 2

FORM PTO-1479 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION			DOCKET NUMBER ASC 301		APPLICATION NUMBER 10/823,349	
			APPLICANT(S) Gary D. Rondeau and John H. Zemek			
			FILING DATE 04/12/2004		GROUP ART UNIT 2872	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FIL. DATE IF APPROP.
	3,720,849	03/13/73	Bardocz			
	4,012,112	03/15/77	Masterson			
	4,029,949	06/14/77	Dew			
	4,520,570	06/04/85	Bednorz et al.			
	4,540,240	09/10/85	Kadi			
	4,688,908	08/25/87	Moore			
	4,814,682	03/21/89	Yamada			
	4,987,303	01/22/91	Takase et al.			
	5,216,235	06/01/93	Lin			
	5,252,884	10/12/93	Dona			
	5,260,622	11/09/93	West			
	5,280,677	01/25/94	Kubo et al.			
	5,306,919	04/26/94	Elings et al.			
	5,438,451	08/01/95	Schweizer			
	5,638,206	06/10/97	Sumiya et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS						

SHEET 2 OF 2

FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION			DOCKET NUMBER ASC 301		APPLICATION NUMBER 10/823,349	
			APPLICANT(S) Gary D. Rondeau and John H. Zemek			
			FILING DATE 04/12/2004		GROUP ART UNIT 2872	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FIL. DATE IF APPROP.
	5,672,816	09/30/97	Park et al.			
	5,705,878	01/06/98	Lewis et al.			
	5,963,367	10/05/99	Aksyuk et al.			
	6,040,653	03/21/00	O'Neill			
	6,137,627	10/24/00	Engelhardt et al.			
	6,229,607 B1	05/08/01	Shirai et al.			
	6,252,705 B1	06/26/01	Lo et al.			
	6,257,053 B1	07/10/01	Tomita et al.			
	6,310,342 B1	10/30/01	Braunstein et al.			
	6,335,824 B1	01/01/02	Overbeck			
	6,359,370 B1	03/19/02	Chang			
	6,459,088 B1	10/01/02	Yasuda et al.			
	6,501,210 B1	12/31/02	Ueno			
	6,555,829 B1	04/29/03	Spallas et al.			
	6,617,761 B1	09/09/03	Ando et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			